

EDWARD M. KENNEDY
MASSACHUSETTS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2101

April 8, 2004

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I'm writing to urge the Commission to expedite its action to deal with the urgent issue of the interference taking place in the public safety radio spectrum.

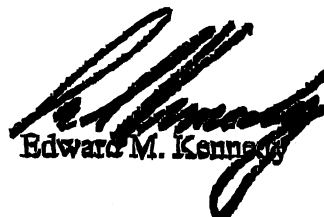
The Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association and several other public safety organizations have contacted me to express their growing concern over the frequent interference caused by the close proximity of public safety and commercial wireless operations within the 800 MHz spectrum band. Many local police officers, firefighters, emergency response personnel and other first responders in the state have encountered these interference problems in the line of duty, often in life-threatening situations.

The Commission faces some extraordinarily complex challenges in spectrum management, but these safety issues deserve high priority, especially in this post-September 11th era. This safety issue continues to be unresolved after more than two years of consideration by the Commission.

I urge the Commission to agree to a prompt resolution of this issue, and provide public safety communities with the additional spectrum they need with no additional cost to public safety organizations and local governments that are now facing serious budget shortfalls.

With respect and appreciation,

Sincerely,



Edward M. Kennedy